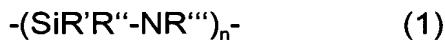


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A hydrophilic coating for surfaces consisting of a surface comprising a) a coating comprising including one or more polysilazanes and b) a coating comprising including a salt of a carboxylic acid, in particular a hydroxycarboxylic acid, or a cationic or anionic silane, or an oligomer or a polymer.
2. (Currently Amended) The hydrophilic coating as claimed in claim 1, which comprises wherein the one or more polysilazanes comprises at least one polysilazane of the formula 1,

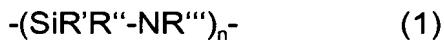


wherein R', R'', R''' may be are identical or different and are either hydrogen, or an organic radical or an organometallic radicals radical and in which wherein n is such that the polysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol.

3. (Currently Amended) The hydrophilic coating as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more polysilazanes polysilazane is a perhydropolysilazane ( $R' = R'' = R''' = H$ ).
4. (Currently Amended) The hydrophilic coating as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, wherein the ionic reagent is an inorganic salt claim 1, wherein the coating b) includes a salt of a carboxylic acid, and the hydrophilicity of the surface being coated can be increased by irradiation with UV light.
5. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a hydrophilic coating on a surface, comprising one or more polysilazanes and an ionic reagent or mixtures of ionic reagents where comprising the steps of, in a first step, coating a surface is

coated with at least one polysilazane and then, in a second step, applying an ionic hydrophilizing reagent or mixtures of ionic hydrophilizing reagents in a solvent are applied to the coating.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8-5, wherein the one or more polysilazane used is at least one polysilazane of the formula 1



wherein R', R'', R''' may be are identical or different and are either hydrogen, or organic radicals or organometallic radicals and in which n is such that the one or more polysilazane has a number-average molecular weight of from 150 to 150 000 g/mol.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6-and/or 7, wherein the one or more polysilazane polysilanzanes is used in the form of a solution in an inert organic solvent which may and, optionally, also comprise a catalyst and/or additives an additive or a mixture thereof for improving the surface wetting, and/or film formation or both.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims 6 to 8~~ claim 5, wherein the ionic hydrophilizing reagent or mixture of hydrophilizing reagents used is a salt of a carboxylic acid, in particular of a hydroxycarboxylic acid, or a cationic or anionic silane, or an oligomer, a or-polymer or a mixture thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 5 at least one of the preceding claims 6 to 9~~, wherein the ionic hydrophilizing reagent or mixture of hydrophilizing reagent-reagents used is an one or more inorganic salt-salts whose effectiveness with respect to the hydrophilicity of the surface can be increased by irradiation with UV light.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims 6 to 10~~ claim 5, wherein the ionic hydrophilizing reagent or mixture of hydrophilizing agents are ~~is~~ dissolved in ~~a~~ one or more solvents selected solvent from the following group consisting of: water, alcohol, ketone, carboxylic acid, ester or mixtures of these solvents ~~thereof~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims 6 to 11~~ claim 5, wherein the surface to be coated is ~~chosen from the following group selected from the group consisting of~~: metal, plastic, porous mineral materials, paint- or resin-like surface, coated surfaces, organic material ~~or and~~ glass.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims 6 to 12~~ claim 5, wherein the surface is coated with the pure polysilazane or polysilazane solutions and the polysilazane coat thickness following evaporation of the solvent and curing is in the range from 0.01 to 10 micrometers.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims 6 to 13~~, wherein the claim 13, further comprising the step of pretreating the surface is pretreated with a primer prior to coating with the polysilazane or the polysilazane solution.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims 6 to 14~~, wherein the coating, both with the polysilazane, and also with the ionic reagent, claim 5, wherein the method is carried out at a temperature in the range from 5 to 40°C.

15. (New) A hydrophilic coating for a surface as claimed in claim 1, wherein the salt of a carboxylic acid is the salt of hydroxycarboxylic acid.

16. (New) A substrate having a surface, wherein the surface is coated with a hydrophilic coating according to claim 1.

17. (New) The substrate as claimed in claim 16, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of metals, plastics, porous mineral materials, paint or resin coated substrates, coated substrates, organic materials and glass.

18. (New) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ionic hydrophilizing reagent is hydroxycarboxylic acid.

19. (New) A substrate having a surface, wherein the surface includes hydrophilic coating produced in accordance with the method of claim 5.

20. (New) The substrate according to claim 19, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, porous mineral materials, paint- or resin-like substrates, coated substrates, organic material and glass.